Government of Saskatchewan

Annual Report 1984-85

Saskatchewan Labour

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Saskatchewan
Labour

Annual Report
of the
Department of Labour

For the Fiscal Year ended March 31, 1985

Published by the Authority of

The Hon. Lorne McLaren,

Minister of Labour

Photographs in this report are courtesy of Photographic Services Agency and the Technical Safety Services Branch of the Department of Labour, Government of Saskatchewan

Regina, November 1, 1985

To The Honourable Frederick W. Johnson
Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan

Sir:

I have the honour to present herewith the annual report of the Department of Labour for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1985.

Respectfully submitted
Lorne McLaren
Minister of Labour

Regina, November 1, 1985

To The Honourable Lorne McLaren
Minister of Labour

Sir:

I have the honour to present herewith the annual report of the Department of Labour for the twelve months ended March 31, 1985.

Respectfully submitted
Phil Richards
Deputy Minister of Labour

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Saskatchewan Labour
March 31, 1985

* Reports to the Legislature through the Minister of Labour.

Summary of Saskatchewan Department of Labour Activities During 1984-85

The Saskatchewan Department of Labour is established under *The Department of Labour Act.* The department administers a full range of labour statutes designed to establish equitable and healthy conditions of employment for Saskatchewan workers; an effective framework for the operation of collective bargaining for the benefit of labour and management; and safety standards for both the labour force and the general public. Programs in effect include those dealing with labour standards, occupational and public health and safety, labour relations, injured worker protection and retirement pensions.

Labour Standards Branch

During the 1984-85 fiscal year, officials of the branch collected $1,235,884.74 in wages found owing under the provisions of *The Labour Standards Act.* In addition, under Sections 60 and 63 of the Act, $625,672.45 was registered in the Court of Queen's Bench as judgements against companies and $223,090.69 against directors of companies.

Policy Planning and Research Branch

A research, information and publications program designed to provide employers, employees and the public with data on a wide variety of labour topics is maintained by the branch.

Publications distributed by the branch during the 1984-85 fiscal year include: Saskatchewan Labour Report, Study of Saskatchewan Collective Bargaining Agreements, 1984, and Survey of Wages and Working Conditions, October 1, 1984.

Labour Relations Branch

A voluntary conciliation service is available through the branch's Conciliation Services office. During the year under review, labour relations officers provided conciliation in 51 disputes involving a total of 5,795 employees and 77 employers.

The Worker's Advocate office continued to provide advice and assistance to claimants with claims before the Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board. The advocates dealt with a total of 916 claims in 1984-85.

Labour Relations Board

During the 1984-85 fiscal year, the Saskatchewan Labour Relations Board gave consideration to a total of 524 applications made under *The Trade Union Act.*

Occupational Health and Safety Branch

An occupational health program involving the inspection of workplaces, including mines; the investigation, identification and control of health hazards in the workplace; and the provision of education and information was carried out by branch personnel during the fiscal year under review. Of the 2,419 inspections of workplaces (other than mines) performed in 1984-85 by occupational health officers, 81 per cent or 1,963 inspections revealed no contravention of *The Occupational Health and Safety Act* or its regulations.

Technical Safety Services Branch

The branch conducted specialized inspections and licensing to ensure electrical, elevator, boiler and pressure vessel, fire and gas safety. Inspectors in the four units conducted 92,419 inspections during the 1984-85 fiscal year.

Pensions Branch

During the year under review, the branch continued to administer the provisions of *The Pension Benefits Act,* to provide information and advice on retirement income matters and, in addition, participated in the deliberations of the Canadian Association of Pension Supervisory Authorities (CAPSA).

Administrative Services Branch

The Administrative Services Branch provides administrative services that are essential to the effective operation of the department. These services include financial management, accounting, personnel, procurement and office services. Other activities include special projects such as review and development of administrative and personnel policies and procedures and participation in the review and development of departmental systems and programs. The Administrative Services Branch also provides clerical and administrative support to all programs in district offices.

The three major components of the branch consist of general administration, personnel and accounting. Activities of the General Administration Unit includes budgeting, financial management, auditing, procurement of equipment and supplies, space requirements, inventory control and furniture acquisition.

The Personnel Unit is responsible for the co-ordination of all recruitment and personnel documentation as well as career planning and training.

The Accounting Unit is responsible for internal pre-auditing of systems, preparation of virements, special warrants, treasury board submissions, treasury advances, cost sharing claims, administering trust funds, receiving and depositing revenues, and issuance of various licences. The maintenance of accounting and attendance records, payroll preparation and the processing of accounts are also part of the Accounting Unit's responsibilities.

Labour Standards Branch

The Labour Standards Branch ensures that the minimum benefits provided in Saskatchewan legislation with respect to labour standards and working conditions are enjoyed by all employees.

Labour standards officers of the branch investigate complaints laid by the employees to ensure strict compliance with the laws and regulations with respect to labour standards. As a result of inspections by the labour standards officers, the branch collects any wages found owing to employees from their employers and forwards the funds to the employees.

The Labour Standards Branch through the media, pamphlets, and information requests answered by labour standards officers, informs employers and employees of all labour standards legislation and regulations. The officers also address groups for the purpose of explaining the legislation. This service has been further expanded to schools, community groups and any interested individuals.

New Legislation

During the period under review there was no legislation enacted.

Regulations

During the period under there were no regulations passed.

Labour Standards Main Provisions

The Labour Standards Act applies to all employees working in the province with the following exceptions: agricultural workers; persons employed in undertakings employing only members of the employer's family; and all employees included within the jurisdiction of the Government of Canada. The federal jurisdiction includes all persons employed in broadcasting, air transport, banking, grain elevators, feed mills, uranium mining, and all inter-provincial and international transport and communication systems.

Hours of Work

Under provisions of the Act, employees in the province become entitled to overtime pay at the rate of time and one-half after an eight-hour day and forty-hour week. Excluded from this provision are persons employed exclusively as domestic workers, managers, and certain firefighters.

Employee Wages

The provisions of the Act require the payment of all wages to employees within six days after the pay period has ended, and fourteen days after the termination of employment of the employee.

Notice of Termination

Provision is made for one to eight weeks of written notice of termination of employment to an employee by an employer depending upon the length of service of the employee. In the absence of written notice, pay in lieu of notice is payable, except in cases involving dismissal for just cause.

Annual Vacation

Under the provisions of the Act all employees including part time are entitled to three weeks' vacation on the completion of one year of service. An employee entitled to three weeks' vacation must be paid annual holiday pay based on three fifty-seconds (3/52) of his gross annual earnings. After the tenth, or more, years of service, employees are entitled to four weeks' annual holidays, and are entitled to be paid four fifty-seconds (4/52) of total gross wages.

Statutory Holidays

Legislated public holidays in Saskatchewan are New Year's Day, Good Friday, Victoria Day, Dominion Day, Saskatchewan Day (first Monday in August), Labour Day, Thanksgiving Day, Remembrance Day and Christmas Day. Where Christmas Day or New Year's Day falls on a Sunday, the Monday immediately following each is considered to be the public holiday. Employers are required to provide their employees with a day off with pay on each day that a public holiday occurs, or where the employee is required to work, pay to the employee, in addition to regular rate of pay, an additional sum calculated on the basis of one and one-half times the regular rate of pay.

Rate of payment of public holiday pay in the construction, logging and lumbering industries is three and one-half per cent of the employee's total wages, excluding overtime.

Maternity, Bereavement, Adoption and Paternity Leave

Employees who have been employed continuously with one employer for 12 months or more are entitled to maternity, bereavement, adoption or

paternity leave of up to 18 weeks, five working days, and six weeks, respectively without pay.

Equal Pay

Employees in Saskatchewan who work in the same establishment have a right to equal rates of pay, regardless of sex, when the working conditions are similar and when they are performing work which requires similar skill, effort and responsibility.

Minimum Wage

The branch is responsible for enforcing regulations ordered by the Minimum Wage Board. The minimum wage of $4.25 per hour applies to all employees within the scope of *The Labour Standards Act.*

Activities

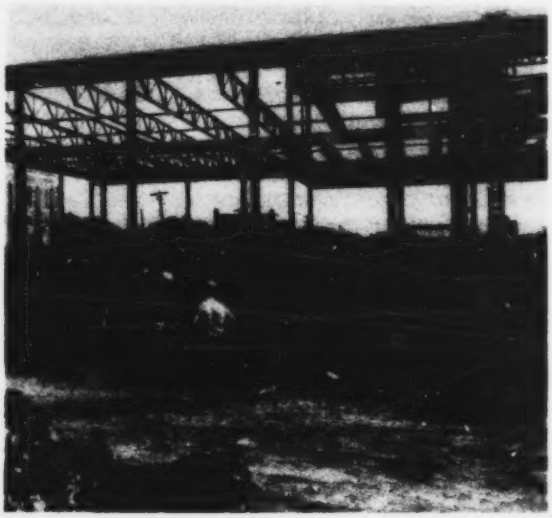
During the year under review 2,245 investigations were conducted, as a result of 2,400 complaints received from employees; 192 certificates were filed in the Court of Queen's Bench against companies; and 47 statements were filed against directors of companies.

Wage Collections

Investigations resulted in the reimbursement of $1,235,884.74 to employees under provisions of the Act. During the year under review $625,672.45 was registered in the Court of Queen's Bench as judgements against companies, and $223,090.69 against directors of companies, under Sections 60 and 63 of the Act.

Prosecutions

During the year under review 44 charges were laid against employers. As a result, the courts ordered a total of $59,348.43 in wages paid on behalf of 64 employees.



Policy Planning and Research Branch

The Policy Planning and Research Branch is responsible for conducting research studies on a full range of labour topics, to facilitate the review of existing programs and to determine new policy directions. Background material is provided to the Deputy Minister to assist in the establishment of the department's position on a wide variety of issues.

The branch monitors, evaluates and reports on the operation of the collective bargaining process. It also collects, organizes and analyzes information on employment and industrial relations trends.

Information obtained as a result of this research is disseminated by the branch. The findings of many of the studies or surveys are published, as are several annual and semi-annual reports. In most cases these reports are free of charge to any person or organization expressing interest in them.

The branch also functions as the statistics bureau, information service and library of the Department of Labour.

The three units which make up the branch reflect the major areas of study. They are: the Policy Planning Unit, the Data Dissemination Unit and the Collective Bargaining Analysis Unit.

Policy Planning Unit

The Policy Planning Unit is designed to undertake a broadly-based program of formal labour research activity. The purpose of this research is to assess the social and economic impact of departmental programs; to measure the effectiveness of existing programs in meeting stated policy objectives; to identify and review new trends in working conditions; to develop program forecasts and recommendations relative to current and new areas of concern to the department; and to provide appropriate research support services to other branches and units of the department and its associated boards and committees. The unit's sphere of activity extends to all legislative, regulatory and administrative programs of the Department of Labour.

Data Dissemination Unit

The unit collects, organizes and disseminates information to inform the public of details of departmental programs and to provide statistical assistance to administrators, policy makers and public and private data users.

During the year under review, the unit was also responsible for the operation of an informal service under which major pieces of labour legislation were provided to interested individuals, businesses and unions.

Labour Library

As part of the Data Dissemination Unit, the Labour Library services the labour-oriented information needs of the department, of other government departments, and numerous organizations and the public. Its 6,000 documents include Statistics Canada publications, federal and provincial government labour reports and other material covering a variety of labour topics.

Wage Survey

A major activity undertaken by the unit, in co-operation with Labour Canada, is the development and operation of the annual mail-out survey, designed to provide current information on occupational wage rates and on working conditions and fringe benefits within Saskatchewan.

The eleventh annual survey was taken in October, 1984 among approximately 1,000 business establishments. The results provide information on the salaries and wage rates for more than 377 occupations as well as information on the working conditions and fringe benefit provisions covering approximately 86,000 workers.

Saskatchewan Labour Report

The Saskatchewan Labour Report is published monthly. It contains current consumer price indices provided by Statistics Canada, plus a full range of employment, wage and salary statistics. Written decisions of the Saskatchewan Labour Relations Board, and a list indicating new books and publications which may be borrowed from the Labour Library, are also included in the monthly report.

Labour Legislation Booklet

The Labour Legislation Booklet is prepared biennially by the Data Dissemination Unit. The booklet provides information on the main provisions of Saskatchewan labour laws and the agencies responsible for their administration.

Publications of the Data Dissemination Unit

The following is a partial list of reports and surveys published during the year under review:

- Annual Report of the Department of Labour
- Saskatchewan Labour Report
- Labour Legislation, June, 1984

Collective Bargaining Analysis Unit

The objective of the Collective Bargaining Analysis Unit is to make available to the government and to all parties involved in collective bargaining information with respect to industrial relations.

This is accomplished by studying all aspects of collective bargaining and in particular the provisions of collective agreements, so as to provide impartial, better-defined bargaining criteria to conciliators, arbitrators and negotiators.

Collective Agreements

Current files of collective bargaining agreements are maintained by the unit. Information on a variety of collective bargaining subjects is constantly requested, and computer programs have been designed to permit efficient in-depth analysis of the numerous agreement provisions. During the year, such requests generated a number of studies relating to particular occupational wage rates, pay package rates, and fringe benefits such as dental plans and overtime rates.

Publications of the Collective Bargaining Analysis Unit

The Study of Saskatchewan Collective Bargaining Agreements, produced annually by the Collective Bargaining Analysis Unit, provides an examination of non-wage provisions contained in provincial collective agreements. A sample of 148 agreements, covering 31,166 employees was analyzed in the study prepared during the year under review.

Work Stoppages During 1984

Current information on work stoppages and time loss is maintained by the Collective Bargaining Analysis Unit.

During the calendar year 1984, there was a total of 11 work stoppages in Saskatchewan. The work stoppages involved 1,366 employees and resulted in a time loss of 12,231 worker-days.

Table 1 shows the number of work stoppages that have occurred in Saskatchewan since 1980, according to number of workers involved and worker-days lost.

Table 1

Work Stoppages,*
Number of Workers Involved and Worker-Days Lost, Saskatchewan, 1980-1984

Year	Number of work stoppages	Number of workers involved	Number of worker-days lost	Number of worker-days lost per non-agricultural paid worker
1980	49	9,731	61,402	0.20
1981	33	4,767	61,787	0.19
1982	26	11,863	416,245	1.31
1983	10	1,239	28,000	0.09
1984	11	1,366	12,231	0.04

* Does not include work stoppages under federal jurisdiction.
Source: Saskatchewan Department of Labour files and Statistics Canada, Labour Force, 71-001.

Labour Union Membership

The unit conducts an annual survey of labour union membership. As of January 1985, labour unions reported a total membership of 97,708, compared with 97,760 members the previous year. Table 2 provides a detailed breakdown of information obtained from the survey.

Table 2

Local Branches and Membership of Labour Unions and Associations, by Union or Association and Affiliation, Saskatchewan, January 1985

Union or association and affiliation	No. of locals	Member-ship
Total, all labour unions	**615**	**97,708**
Total, Canadian Labour Congress	**395**	**79,120**
Affiliated with the Canadian Labour Congress	**391**	**78,852**
Canadian Union of Public Employees	160	16,765
Saskatchewan Government Employees' Union	20	14,761
Service Employees' International Union*	4	6,982
Public Service Alliance of Canada	1	4,731
Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union (Saskatchewan Joint Board)[1]	18	4,612
United Food and Commercial Workers' International Union*	22	3,976
Communications, Electronic, Electrical, Technical and Salaried Workers of Canada[2]	7	3,940
Energy and Chemical Workers' Union	13	3,488
United Steelworkers of America*	22	3,426
Grain Services Union	1	2,153
Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees*	22	1,249
United Transportation Union*	10	1,201
International Woodworkers of America*	1	1,132
Office and Professional Employees' International Union*	1	1,110
Canadian Postmasters' and Assistants' Association[3]	1	1,073
Canadian Brotherhood of Railway, Transport and General Workers	12	777
Amalgamated Transit Union*	3	766
American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada*	2	691
International Association of Fire Fighters*	7	685
Canadian Union of Postal Workers	1	653
Letter Carriers' Union of Canada	10	542
Canadian Union of United Brewery, Flour, Cereal, Soft Drinks and Distillery Workers	9	507
Canadian Paperworkers' Union	2	479
Brotherhood of Railway, Airline and Steamship Clerks, Freight Handlers, Express and Station Employees*	3	356
Canadian Division Brotherhood Railway Carmen of the United States and Canada*	6	340
Graphic Communications International Union*	4	292
Hotel Employees' and Restaurant Employees' International Union*	1	275
United Garment Workers of America*	2	272
Bakery, Confectionery and Tobacco Workers' International Union*	1	259
National Association of Broadcast Employees and Technicians	3	254
International Typographical Union*	4	170
International Association of Machinist and Aerospace Workers*	3	151
Alliance of Canadian Cinema, Television and Radio Artists	1	150
Canadian Air Line Employees' Association	3	144

Table 2 (continued)

Local Branches and Membership of Labour Unions and Associations, by Union or Association and Affiliation, Saskatchewan, January 1985

Union or association and affiliation	No. of locals	Member-ship
United Mine Workers of America[4]	1	108
International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees and Moving Picture Machine Operators of the United States and Canada*	2	88
Canadian Signal and Communications Union	1	65
International Brotherhood of Firemen and Oilers*	2	69
Aluminum Brick and Glass Workers International Union*	2	52
International Molders and Allied Workers' Union*	1	46
Canadian Actors' Equity Association	1	40
International Union United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America	1	22
Chartered by the Canadian Labour Congress	**4**	**268**
Association of Commercial and Technical Employees' Union	1	144
Canadian Strip Miners' Union	1	61
Saskatchewan Government Employees' Association Employees' Union Local 481	1	35
Roche Percee Coal Miners' Union	1	28
Confederation of Canadian Unions	**1**	**36**
Canadian Association of Industrial Mechanical and Allied Workers	1	36
Affiliated only with AFL-CIO	**8**	**2,024**
United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America	5	852
Labourers' International Union of North America	2	772
International Association of Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Iron Workers	1	400
Affiliated with AFL-CIO-CFL	**24**	**4,983**
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers	5	2,004
United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada	4	997
International Union of Operating Engineers	1	644
Sheet Metal Workers' International Association	1	321
International Brotherhood of Painters and Allied Trades	2	264
Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' International Association of the United States and Canada	2	240
International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers and Helpers (Cement, Lime, Gypsum and Allied Division)[5]	5	235
International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftsmen	2	157
International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Asbestos Workers	1	83
International Union of Elevator Constructors	1	38
Unaffiliated Labour Unions and Associations	**187**	**11,545**
Saskatchewan Union of Nurses	133	5,215
The University of Saskatchewan Faculty Association	1	980

Table 2 (continued)

Local Branches and Membership of Labour Unions and Associations, by Union or Association and Affiliation, Saskatchewan, January 1985

Union or association and affiliation	No. of locals	Member-ship
International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen and Helpers of America	2	893
Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada	1	597
The University of Regina Faculty Association	1	582
International Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers[6]	9	546
Regina City Policemen's Association	1	413
Health Sciences Association of Saskatchewan	1	331
Rocanville Potash Employees' Association	1	326
Saskatoon City Police Association	1	312
Roadbuilders Employees Association	1	162
Develcon Employees Association	1	160
Regina Civic Middle Management Association	1	108
Association of Postal Officials of Canada	1	104
Prince Albert City Policemen's Association	1	76
The Administrative Personnel Group	1	70
The Canadian Association of Policemen, Moose Jaw	1	64
Regina Pioneer Village Staff Nurses' Association	1	57
Regina Public Board of Education Union of Office Employees	1	52
Canadian Air Traffic Control Association	1	52
Other Unaffiliated Labour Unions and Associations (membership under 50)	26	445

* Affiliated with American Federation of Labour — Congress of Industrial Organization.

1 The Saskatchewan Joint Board Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union (Ind.) became affiliated to the CLC in May 1984 through its affiliation with the Canadian region of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (CLC).

2 January 1984 the Communication Workers of Canada (CLC) and the International Union of Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers (CLC) merged to form Communication, Electronic, Electrical, Technical and Salaried Workers of Canada.

3 October 1, 1984 the Canadian Postmasters' and Assistants' Association (Ind.) became affiliated to the CLC.

4 International Union, United Mine Workers of America (CLC) changed its name to United Mine Workers of America (CLC).

5 April 1, 1984 United Cement, Lime and Gypsum Workers' International Union (AFL-CIO-CLC) merged with the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers and Helpers (AFL-CIO-CFL). A new division within the Boilermakers Union was established for the members of the Cement Workers and is called Cement, Lime, Gypsum and Allied Division.

6 Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers (Ind.) changed its name to International Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers (Ind.).

In Canada, certain kinds of businesses fall under the legislative authority of the federal government. Establishments under federal jurisdiction include undertakings or businesses connecting two or more provinces or connecting Canada with another country. Examples are railways, highway transport, pipelines, canals, ferries, tunnels, bridges, telephone, telegraph and cable systems. Also included are all shipping and services connected with shipping; all radio and television broadcasting; all air transport, aircraft and airfields; all banks; and primary fishing where the fishermen work for wages. All other businesses, works and establishments are subject to provincial jurisdiction.

Table 3 shows the membership of labour unions under federal, as well as provincial authority, according to five general classifications of employer.

Table 3

Membership of Labour Unions According to Jurisdiction, by Category of Employer, Saskatchewan, January 1985

		Federal jurisdiction			Provincial jurisdiction		
	Both jurisdictions	Total membership	CLC affiliated	Unaffiliated	Total membership	CLC affiliated	Unaffiliated
Total	**97,708**	**15,803**	**14,299**	**1,504**	**81,905**	**64,821**	**17,084**
Private industry	29,086	2,649	2,282	367	26,437	17,785	8,652
Provincial government	34,759	—	—	—	34,759	30,146	4,613
Federal government	11,001	11,001	9,864	1,137	—	—	—
Municipal government	17,417	—	—	—	17,417	13,897	3,520
Co-operatives	5,445	2,153	2,153	—	3,292	2,993	299

Sources: Annual Survey of Labour Union Membership made by the Saskatchewan Department of Labour; the Federal Department of Labour and Statistics Canada under *The Corporations and Labour Unions Returns Act.*

Labour Relations Branch

Conciliation Services

The Conciliation Services Office provides a voluntary conciliation service to assist employers and unions in resolving disputes arising out of the collective bargaining process, with a view to minimizing conflict and work disruption.

Voluntary Conciliation

The conciliation service is offered to labour and industry upon request of either or both parties involved in an industrial dispute.

Disputes may arise during negotiation for an agreement or during the renewal of existing agreements. They may also arise from the application or interpretation of agreements. In disputes resulting in a work stoppage, where no conciliation is requested, the office may approach the opposing parties with a view to resolving the problem.

Conciliation Proceedings During 1984-85

Industrial relations officers were called upon to provide conciliation in 51 disputes during the fiscal year 1984-85, involving a total of 5,795 employees and 77 employers. Of these, eight disputes were still pending settlement with the aid of the Conciliation Services Office on March 31, 1985.

Table 4

Conciliation Summary, by Industry, Saskatchewan, 1984-85

Industry	Disputes	Workers involved	Employers involved
All Industries	51	5,795	77
Mining	—	—	—
Manufacturing	3	102	3
Construction	3	177	3
Transportation	1	240	1
Trade	26	1,133	37
Finance	—	—	—
Service	—	—	—
Public administration	17	4,063	21
Communication	1	80	12

Office of The Worker's Advocate

The Worker's Advocate Office provides assistance and advice to claimants who have difficult claims before the Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board. The advocates are officers of the Department of Labour, and are completely independent of the Workers' Compensation Board. They have access to all board files, records and other information relating to the claim under investigation.

Assisting Workers

The number of cases handled by the Worker's Advocate Office since its establishment in 1973 has steadily increased. Many cases are referred to the advocates simply by word of mouth. Others are referred by legal assistance clinics, private law firms, doctors, the Provincial Ombudsman, and unions. An increasing number of cases are brought to the advocates' attention by members of the Legislative Assembly and members of the House of Commons.

Upon receiving a request for assistance, the advocate conducts an investigation and advises the worker of the possible course of action. The advocate may appeal a case on an injured worker's behalf and provide representation at meetings between the claimant and the various levels of the compensation board.

The advocates may decline to provide assistance if it is believed that a claimant is not eligible for compensation. In some circumstances, the advocate may refer the claimant to the Provincial Ombudsman or other appropriate agencies for assistance.

Public Relations and Education Programs

The Worker's Advocate Office responds to all requests for speaking engagements and conducts educational programs in conjunction with the Occupational Health and Safety Branch of the Department of Labour. Emphasis is placed on education and public relations programs by the advocates, in an effort to provide assistance to workers before their compensation claims become needlessly complicated.

Claims

Many files are never actually closed by the advocates because of the nature of injuries and the potential for deterioration. As new medical knowledge is acquired and expertise in the occupational health field is gained some claims may be re-opened and reviewed. As well, injured workers frequently request the advocates to review their claims, particularly when changes in legislation have been proposed or new studies have been completed.

During the fiscal year 1983-84, the influx of claims continued. New claims for this period totalled 452. This figure does not include the number of old and closed files which were re-opened.

A summary of the cases handled by the Office of the Worker's Advocate during the period under review is shown in the tables immediately following. Table 5 provides information regarding the number of claims processed; while Table 6 shows the disposition of claims processed.

Table 5

Claims Processed by the Worker's Advocate Office, Saskatchewan, 1984-85

Claims	Number
Total claims	**916**
New claims	317
Claims carried over from 1983-84 fiscal year	439
Files re-opened	160
Claims closed	**566**
Claims remaining open as of March 31, 1985	**350**

Table 6

Claims Processed by the Worker's Advocate Office, by Disposition, Saskatchewan, 1984-85

Disposition	Number
Information provided (inquiry)	81
Investigation	563
Outside advocates' jurisdiction (referred to proper authority)	3
Claim from other province	4
Claim initiated with Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board	1
Appeal to a medical review panel	1
Representation at the awards committee (responsible for setting permanent pensions)	28
Appeal to the earnings replacement committee	57
Appeal to claims committee (initial appeal)	69
Appeal to claims officer	67
Appeal to Workers' Compensation Board members (worker's advocate making representation)	107
Request for rehabilitation assistance	32
Appeal to rehabilitation department	19

Labour Relations Board

The main provisions of *The Trade Union Act* are administered by the Labour Relations Board. The board is empowered to issue orders that certify unions as bargaining representatives for appropriate units of employees; that require persons to refrain from unfair labour practices; that reinstate employees discharged contrary to *The Trade Union Act;* and, that require an employer to comply with provisions relating to the introduction of a technological change. Also, the board may act as an arbitration board and determine any dispute referred to it by employers and trade unions.

At the end of March 1985, the membership of the board was as follows:

Dennis P. Ball, Chairman, Regina
C.C. Cave, Moose Jaw
B. McDonald, Saskatoon
B.J. Keple, Regina
C. Lyons, Saskatoon
K. Hutchinson, Regina
J. MacLeod, Regina
J. Forsyth, Regina
J. Jones, Regina
P. Richards, Saskatoon

Labour Relations Board Meetings in 1984-85

Between April 1, 1984 and March 31, 1985 the Labour Relations Board held 12 meetings lasting a total of 114 days. The average number of days per meeting was accordingly 9.5 days.

Applications to the Board

A total of 524 applications was considered by the board during the year under review. Of these, 63 applications were made under Section 11, subsection (8) and Section 45 of *The Trade Union Act.* Table 7 shows these applications by type of application and disposition. The five-year trend in the annual number of applications to the board under *The Trade Union Act* is shown by type and disposition in Tables 8 and 9 respectively.

During 1984-85, a total of 89 certification orders covering 1,104 employees was issued by the board and 45 certification orders affecting 298 employees were rescinded.

Table 7

Applications to the Labour Relations Board under Sections 5, 11(8), 24, 37, 43, and 45 of *The Trade Union Act*, Type of Application by Disposition, Saskatchewan, 1984-85

Type of applications by disposition	Applications
Total applications	524
Granted	215
Dismissed	62
Withdrawn	188
Determined	1
Certification (Section 5, clauses a, b, and c)	118
Granted	89
Dismissed	13
Withdrawn	16
Unfair labour practice (Section 5, clause d)	126
Granted	26
Dismissed	23
Withdrawn	77
Reinstatement (Section 5, clause f)	50
Granted	11
Dismissed	1
Withdrawn	38
Monetary loss (Section 5, clause g)	52
Granted	11
Dismissed	1
Withdrawn	40
Company dominated (Section 5, clause h)	—
Granted	—
Dismissed	—
Withdrawn	—
Amendment or recission (Section 5, clause i, j, and k)	106
Granted	74
Dismissed	19
Withdrawn	13
Exclusion on religious grounds (Section 5, clause l)	1
Granted	1
Dismissed	—
Withdrawn	—
Strike Votes (Section 11 [8])	62
Applications made	62
Dismissed	2
Withdrawn	1
Reference of dispute (Section 24)	3
Granted	—
Dismissed	1
Withdrawn	1
Determined	1
Transfer of obligations (Section 37)	3
Granted	2
Dismissed	1
Withdrawn	—
Technological change (Section 43)	2
Granted	—
Dismissed	2
Withdrawn	—
Ratification Votes (Section 45)	1
Applications made	1
Withdrawn	1

Table 8

Applications to the Labour Relations Board under Sections 5, 11(8), 24, 37, 43, and 45 of *The Trade Union Act*, by Type of Application, Saskatchewan, 1980-81 to 1984-85

Type of application	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85
Total applications	**408**	**570**	**533**	**454**	**524**
Certification (Section 5, clauses a, b, and c)	179	249	181	187	118
Unfair labour practices (Section 5, clause d)	82	110	124	80	126
Reinstatement (Section 5, clause f)	40	75	79	56	50
Monetary loss (Section 5, clause g)	41	77	82	57	52
Company dominated (Section 5, clause h)	1	—	—	1	—
Amendment or recission (Section 5, clauses i, j, and k)	60	46	61	65	106
Exclusion on religious grounds (Section 5, clause l)	3	8	5	4	1
Strike Votes (Section 11[8])	—	—	—	2	62
Reference of dispute (Section 24)	2	2	1	1	3
Transfer of obligation (Section 37)	1	2	—	—	3
Technological change (Section 43)	—	1	—	1	2
Ratification Votes (Section 45)	—	—	—	—	1

Table 9

Applications to the Labour Relations Board under *The Trade Union Act*, by Disposition, Saskatchewan, 1980-81 to 1984-85

Year	Total applications	Granted	Dismissed	Withdrawn	Determined*
1980-81	408	233	76	98	1
1981-82	569	332	83	152	2
1982-83	533	277	129	127	—
1983-84	454	227	114	113	—
1984-85	524	215	62	188	1

* Under *The Trade Union Act* the board may determine the outcome of any dispute referred to it by either party to the dispute. The decision of the board shall be final and binding.

Occupational Health and Safety Branch

The Occupational Health and Safety Branch is responsible for administering and enforcing the provisions of *The Occupational Health and Safety Act* dealing with the protection of workers against risks to their health or safety arising from their employment.

Work Protection

The branch achieves its mandate through inspection of workplaces by the Occupational Health and Safety Unit, the Mine Safety Unit and Occupational Hygiene Unit; the provision of advice and information through the Toxicology, Radiation Safety, Information and Resource, and the inspection units; and the provision of information bulletins, courses on occupational health and safety, and support of occupational health committees.

Information and Resource Unit

The Information and Resource Unit is responsible for organizing and conducting training courses and programs to assist occupational health committees to better discharge their duties under the Act and regulations; for preparing and distributing hazard alerts and other information on significant occupational health and safety matters; for responding to requests for information from other branch personnel, other government bodies, committees and the public; for co-ordinating the preparation of regulations and supporting explanatory and interpretational material; and for preparing and maintaining statistics on occupational accidents and morbidity.

Library

The Occupational Health and Safety Library continued to meet increasing demands for material and reference services. The film lending service was heavily used, with 1,309 showings to audiences totalling approximately 45,096 persons. The film library currently holds 113 films.

Occupational Health and Safety Unit

The occupational health officers in this unit are responsible for conducting health and safety inspections of Saskatchewan workplaces (other than mines) to which *The Occupational Health and Safety Act* applies, in order to secure compliance with the Act and regulations and to assist with the effective functioning of occupational health committees.

Inspections

During the fiscal year 1984-85, occupational health officers, accompanied by occupational health committee members, conducted 2,419 inspections and ordered the correction of 1,085 contraventions of the Act and regulations. Of the total number of inspections conducted by the officers, 81 percent or 1,963 inspections revealed no contraventions of the Act or its regulations. Monitoring of working environments and other related concerns required 16 visits.

Occupational Health Committees

The occupational health officers continued to assist workers and employers to improve and strengthen the functioning of the occupational health committees. During the fiscal year, the officers made contact with committees on 1,346 occasions.

Investigations

Investigations were conducted into 28 accidents, including nine which involved loss of life. Special investigations were also conducted in response to complaints from workers, families, and other interested persons.

Prosecutions

Two prosecutions were undertaken during the 1984-85 fiscal year. One was initiated for contavention of the Act. The company entered a plea of guilty and was fined a total of $1,400. The other proceeding is still before the courts.

Mine Safety Unit

The functions of the Mine Safety Unit are to ensure that mining operations in Saskatchewan are conducted in accordance with the requirements of *The Occupational Health and Safety Act,* Mines Regulations and other associated regulations; to promote the effective operation of the occupational health committees at all mines; and to promote healthy and safe working conditions by giving advice and guidance to operators or workers, either individually or through the committee structure.

Inspections

Compliance with the legislation, at mining operations, is achieved by regular inspections. Inspectors of the unit wrote reports containing 131 notices of contravention and, as well, reported 1,181

less serious conditions which required corrective action during the year ending March 31, 1985. Comparable figures for 1983-84 were 186 notices of contravention and 1,554 less serious recorded items. Inspectors also carried out investigations of serious accidents and dangerous occurrences; inspected hoisting systems; carried out radiation, ventilation, noise and dust surveys; and made necessary investigations before issuing approval for various phases of mining operations.

Mine Rescue

The Mine Safety Unit took an active part in the training of mine rescue personnel. Ten sessions for mine rescue instructors, co-ordinators, managers and mine rescue committees were held, and in conjunction with these three in-plant inspections of mine rescue training procedures, rescue equipment and facilities for training were conducted. One two-day training session with 33 rescue instructors was also held. Examinations were held to determine competency in mine rescue resulting in the issuance of three instructor's and 19 provincial mine rescue certificates. Seventy-one supervisors were examined for competency in emergencies and all 71 were issued certificates.

Six mine rescue competitions were judged, including the Provincial Competition. The Provincial Mine Rescue Competition, sponsored by the Saskatchewan Mining Association, was judged by inspectors of the unit. Both the First Aid and Mine Rescue Competitions were won by Central Canada Potash.

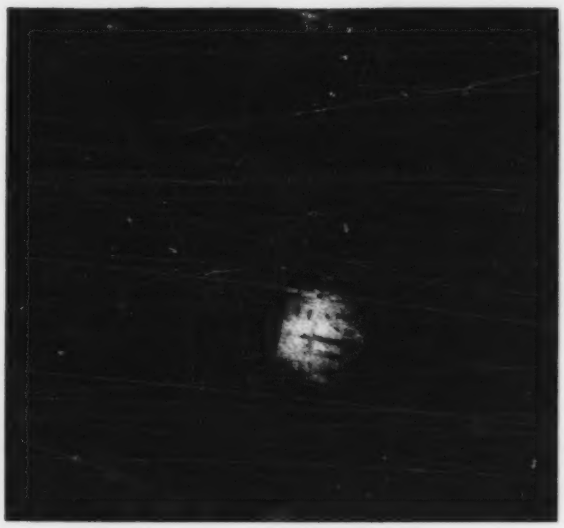
Courses — Certification Programs

Inspectors of the unit conducted examinations for Blasting Certificates; 39 certificates were awarded. In addition, 12 courses in the Safe Handling and Use of Explosives were conducted for 181 people in Saskatchewan. Examinations for Hoisting Certificates were also held; 25 certificates were awarded.

The Mines Regulations require that workers in underground and open pit operations be supervised by supervisors possessing specified qualifications, including a certificate indicating satisfactory knowledge of the law pertaining to health and safety. Following examinations by the Mine Safety Unit, 58 such certificates were issued during the year under review.

Accidents

During the year under review, four mine workers were killed compared with one fatality in the previous reporting period. The lost-time injury rate[1] (frequency) for the calendar year 1984 was 19 compared with 34 in 1983 and 38 in 1982.



[1] The rate is the number of lost-time injuries per million hours worked (calendar years have been used for comparison).

Occupational Hygiene Unit

The Occupational Hygiene Unit is concerned with the identification and control of health hazards in the workplace. It collects scientific data on the workplace environment from which decisions are made on the need for, and urgency of, corrective measure to prevent ill health. Recommendations on engineering control measures are made to industry where appropriate.

The unit also provides information and advice to industry through occupational health officers, printed material and by direct contact with the workforce. Forty-six workplaces were visited to advise on working conditions relating to health. Guidelines were prepared describing measures necessary to control health hazards related to spraying paints containing isocyanates, mercury in dental offices and ethylene oxide when used for sterilization.

The unit conducted 114 surveys, most of which were in response to concerns referred to the branch. Twenty of the surveys were related to noise. Asbestos was a major concern and much time was spent inspecting asbestos removal projects. Technical input was provided to an enquiry into asbestos control at a crown corporation. Projects promoted within the unit included studies of diesel smoke emissions in underground mines; noise in the brewing and soft drink industries; and resin/ fibreglass operations.

Laboratory

The laboratory provides analytical services necessary to support branch programs and is responsible for the maintenance and calibration of field equipment used in these programs. During the fiscal year, a total of 956 samples of workroom contamination, commercial products and urine of workers was examined to evaluate dangers in the workplace.

Industrial Toxicology Unit

The Industrial Toxicology Unit provides toxicological/medical support for other units in the branch. It provides advisory services on occupational health matters to occupational health committees, employers, workers, practising physicians, and federal and provincial government bodies. Medical support is presently being obtained through the branch's chief occupational medical officer, who also provides medical evaluation and medical advice in occupational matters.

During the year under review, 23 places of employment were investigated for working conditions which may have resulted in the occurrence of several occupationally-related illnesses. These included 11 notifications by physicians. Medical examinations were provided at two places of employment.

The unit responds to inquiries concerning toxicological properties of industrial material, hazards associated with industrial processes, limitations of existing standards and work-relatedness of diseases; and provides scientific evidence to substantiate any advice or recommendation. During the year, research was conducted and advisory services were provided in response to 73 such inquiries. Responses were also provided to 30 inquiries for information about industrial substances of established toxicological nature.

The unit evaluates reseach findings and makes recommendations for modifications of the existing regulations, as required, to reflect new scientific knowledge. Adequacy of existing standards for use of methylene chloride, for use of video display terminals, for allowing smoking in workplaces and for prevention of back injury are at present under review. Suggested changes in the regulatory control of diesel emissions in underground mines have been made.

Radiation Safety Unit

The Radiation Safety Unit is responsible for programs designed to minimize the exposure of the public to unnecessary radiation arising from unsafe or poorly adjusted radiation emitting sources and equipment, as well as for ensuring compliance with federal and provincial regulations relating to the permissible radiation doses that can be received by occupationally exposed workers in the province.

Legislation and Regulations

The Radiation Safety Unit enforces *The Radiation Health and Safety Act* and regulations made thereunder. Its staff also enforce federal regulations made under *The Atomic Energy Control Act* and *The Radiation Emitting Devices Act.*

Inspections and Consultative Services

Consultative and educational services are provided to users of radiation sources to promote high standards. X-ray inspections, consultations and investigations cover approximately 1,000 separate x-ray units distributed among hospitals, community clinics, chiropractors, dentists and veterinarians as well as some 30 pieces of non-diagnostic x-ray equipment found at universities and industrial workplaces. Plans for new installations are also inspected and recommendations for necessary shielding were made where required.

The staff of the unit provide full consultant physicist services for small hospitals, thus enabling them to apply for accreditation by the Canadian Centre for Hospital Accreditation.

Similar services are provided with respect to equipment emitting non-ionizing radiations such as radio frequency and microwave sources, lasers, ultra-violet lamps and sources of airborne or contact ultrasound.

Routine inspections of commercial microwave ovens are carried out by public health inspectors on behalf of the Radiation Safety Unit. The unit provides a follow-up service where necessary and undertakes any required calibration of the monitoring equipment used.

Radiation Equipment Safety and Preventive Maintenance (SPM) Program

The Radiation Safety Unit administer this program under which all hospital radiation equipment must have a minimum of one SPM inspection annually. These inspections are performed by x-ray servicing companies; the service technologists involved are required, under *The Electrical Inspection and Licensing Act 1981*, to hold electrical journeyman's restricted licenses. (In SPM inspections both the electrical and mechanical safety of the equipment is checked; radiation output is not evaluated.) The Saskatchewan Dental Plan also participates in the SPM program. Servicing for their equipment is provided by their own technical staff, but calibration and adjustment of the radiation output is performed by the Radiation Safety Unit.

Development of X-ray Quality Assurance

In order to improve the supervision of the condition of medical x-ray equipment (which may only be visited by a radiation health officer once every three years), the unit has been working on the development of a new x-ray quality assurance program which can be used to supplement this system of site visits. This new program has now undergone extensive evaluation studies, the results of which have been very encouraging. It has been generally accepted by hospitals in the province and has also received a great deal of interest from outside the province, both from other parts of Canada and from the United States. This program has been designed to involve to the greatest extent possible the x-ray technicians in hospitals who use the equipment daily. By doing so, the program can be run with minimum staff commitment by the Radiation Safety Unit while at the same time enlisting the interest and help of those who staff the departments concerned.

Instrument Calibration Program

Comprehensive laboratory facilities for calibration of the radiation monitoring equipment used by the unit are essential for maintaining the credibility of inspection reports made by radiation health officers. Further improvements in the facilities currently available were made during the year under review. Calibration of radiation monitors using gamma radiation, x-rays and microwaves is routinely carried out. Progress in establishing a calibration facility for radon and radon daughter monitors has also been made.

Overdose Investigations

The Radiation Safety Unit regularly receives, for investigation, reports of high radiation doses, as recorded by Radiation Protection Bureau personnel dosimeters. In a number of these incidents the annual dose limits for the individuals concerned appeared to have been exceeded. Nevertheless, the detailed investigation which follows generally shows that the readings in question were clearly erroneous. In a few instances, no satisfactory explanation for the reported doses could be found and the record of these has had to be entered on the National Dose Register against the name of the individual concerned. In some instances this has led to temporary restrictions on some radiation workers. It is important, both for future epidemiological

studies and for proper consideration of possible compensation claims, that all changes to entries in the National Dose Register are adequately documented. The unit has raised concerns at the national level that this is not always being done at present.

Worker Concerns - Occupational Health Committee Reports

Often matters of concern to individual employees are brought to the attention of the unit through the minutes of occupational health committee meetings. Problems raised through this procedure were regularly dealt with by the unit during the year under consideration. They related to all aspects of the use of ionizing and non-ionizing radiations, many of them involved concerns about video display units. Reports of adverse health effects associated with the use of video display terminals (V.D.T.'s) and linked to supposed radiation emissions have continued to circulate, particularly among pregnant operators. Extensive tests of all types of V.D.T.'s both within the province and elsewhere have shown that no harmful radiation emissions are detectable even when using the most sensitive monitoring equipment. Documentation of these tests are available on request.

Matters of Public Concern

The unit has responded to a wide range of concerns which have been raised by members of the public at different times. Examples of these concerns include inquiries about excessive use of medical x-ray procedures, radon levels in schools, radiation leakage from microwave ovens, and radioactive contamination in homes and domestic equipment.

Radiation Emergencies

The staff of the unit are on 24-hour call in the event of any radiation emergency anywhere in the province. The unit also participates in an annual training course provided for members of the Emergency Measures Organization.

Publications

The unit has continued to produce guides which are intended to provide reference information on various aspects of radiation control and radiation risk assessment, for use throughout the province. Some 50 of these are now available. One research paper was also published during the year under review.

Service on Committees

Members of the staff of the Radiation Safety Unit serve on the Radiation Safety Committee of the University of Saskatchewan, a committee of the Saskatchewan Society of X-ray Technicians, the Joint Panel on Occupational and Environmental Research for Uranium Production in Canada, the Provincial Radiation Health and Safety Committee and the Federal/Provincial Sub-committee for Radiation Surveillance.

They also act as consultants to the Radiation Advisory Committee of the Saskatchewan Health Research Board and to specialist committees appointed by the Atomic Energy Control Board. During the year under review, the Chief Radiation Health Physicist served on the program committee of the 1984 International Conference on Occupational Radiation Safety in Uranium Mining.

Development of Computer Data Base and Computerized Working Procedures

To facilitate the use of existing resources as effectively as possible the unit has been converting all its stored data related to radiation safety in hospitals into a fully computerized form. It is envisaged that officers attached to the unit will eventually be able to access these data files while in the field by means of a portable computer and telephone modem system.

This new system also provides word processing facilities which should streamline the preparation of inspection reports following visits by officers of the unit to provincial hospitals.

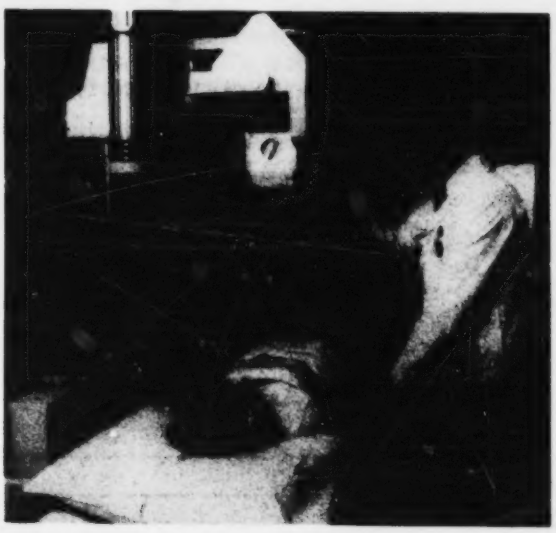


Table 10

**Activity Summary,
Radiation Safety Unit,
Saskatchewan, 1980-81 to 1984-85**

Activity	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85
X-ray					
Inspections	109	212	215	199	202
Consultations and radiation surveys	214	159	167	81	108
Saskatchewan Dental Plan					
Inspections	89	116	120	129	147
Consultations	5	11	7	17	12
Uranium mines and mills					
Inspections[1]	6	8	6	5	2
Consultations	16	23	20	23	22
Overdose reports	2	10	31	53	81
Radiation sources and Atomic Energy Control Board licenced operations—inspections, wipe tests, consultations, etc.	445	583	528	731	655
Non-ionizing radiations—inspections, consultations, etc.[2]	350	361	370	431	473
Instrument calibrations	—	—	12	6	43
Lectures and seminars presented to professional groups and organizations	2	4	9	23	23

[1] This does not include inspections carried out by the Mine Safety Unit.

[2] This includes commercial microwave oven inspections carried out by public health inspectors.

Technical Safety Services Branch

The objective of the Technical Safety Services Branch is to provide safety standards to industry and the general public in the fields of boiler and pressure vessel installations; electrical and elevator installations; fire safety; and gas installations.

Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety Unit

The purpose of the Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety Unit is to provide minimum safety standards with respect to the design, construction, installation, operation and maintenance of both high and low pressure boilers, pressure vessels of all types, pressure plants and other related hazardous equipment.

All pressure vessels and boilers used in the province are inspected periodically. In addition, all new designs of boilers and pressure vessels and related equipment are inspected by the unit before they are installed. The unit also examines and licenses all power engineers, firemen and pressure welders who will be operating or repairing equipment in the province.

Legislation and Regulations

The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety Unit administers *The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Act* and regulations made thereunder. During the year under review, *The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Act* was amended by *The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Amendment Act, 1984;* and Chapter B-5 Reg 1, The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Fees Regulations, 1981 were amended by Saskatchewan Regulation 17/84 dated March 9, 1984.

In the interest of uniformity of safety standards throughout Canada, the following codes and specifications have been adopted by order-in-council and are administered as part of the regulations under *The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Act:*

(a) C.S.A. Code B51;

(b) C.S.A. Code B52;

(c) A.N.S.I. Code for pressure piping;

(d) A.S.M.E. Code for boilers, pressure vessels and pressure welding, sections one to 11 inclusive; and

(e) Department of Transport specifications for construction and testing of liquefied propane portable cyliners.

Inspections

The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Act provides for periodic inspections of all high pressure boilers in power plants, low pressure boilers in heating plants and all other pressure vessels and pressure plants used in connection with air, hot water, steam, oil, liquefied propane, compressed gas or for refrigeration purposes. It also provides for shop inspection of all pressure vessel construction performed in manufacturing plants.

During the year under review, inspectors made a total of 8,965 inspections. Included in this total were inspections of 327 new boilers, 1,264 pressure vessels and 23 refrigeration plants which were installed in the province. Of these, 204 were manufactured in the province and were shop-inspected by inspectors during construction.

Inspectors also reset and sealed 424 safety valves, mostly used on oilfield vessels. Seven vessels not stamped previously with the registration number were stamped by inspectors.

A total of 1,407 improvement orders, or recommendations pertaining to improper or hazardous conditions was made by unit inspectors in accordance with *The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Act* and regulations thereunder.

Under contract arrangements with the Canada Department of Labour, 389 inspections were made under that department's safety code.

The number of inspections under *The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Act* during 1983-84 and 1984-85 is shown in Table 11.

Table 11

Number of Inspections under *The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Act*, Saskatchewan, 1983-84 and 1984-85

Type of inspection	1983-84	1984-85
Total	**11,994**	**8,965**
Boilers	7,094	5,671
Pressure vessels	4,351	2,883
Refrigeration plants	539	411

Approval and Registration of Design

As provided in the regulations under *The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Act,* design drawings and complete specificiations of every new design of a boiler, pressure vessel or fitting to be used in connection therewith, for use in the province, must be submitted to the office of the chief inspector for approval and registration before construction may be legally commenced.

During the year under review, 789 new designs were received and checked for compliance with the various regulations in force and the engineering codes adopted. Of these, 729 were registered and 60 were rejected. These numbers include 52 welding procedures, some of which were single units, but most of which were in multiple groups.

Engineers' and Firemen's Qualifications

Every engineer or fireman responsible for the operation of a high pressure boiler, a low pressure boiler of 300 or more kilowatts, a steam plant, or refrigeration plant must hold a certificate of an appropriate class, as specified in *The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Act.* Such certificates are issued to persons who have the necessary qualifications and pass an examination.

All permanent certificates are valid for as long as they continue to be registered annually with the unit. Temporary certificates are valid for one year from the date of issue and may be renewed without examination if application for renewal is made in accordance with the regulations.

Under Section 29 of *The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Act,* the chief inspector may, in exceptional circumstances, issue a permit for a limited period of time authorizing the operation of a steam plant by a person holding a certificate one class lower than the appropriate class.

The following table shows certificates issued in each classification and the number of examination papers written during the year under review.

Table 12

Engineers' and Firemen's Qualifications, Saskatchewan, 1984

Type of certificate or examination	Examination papers written	Certificates issued	Annual registrations
Permanent certificates	**614**	**172**	**2,224**
First class	60	6	129
Second class	113	12	230
Third class	207	31*	360
Fourth class	146	57	550
Fifth class	39	23	533
Heating plant engineer's	—	—	6
Refrigeration engineer's	49	43	416
Final traction engineer's	—	—	—
Fireman's permanent	—	—	—
Temporary certificates	**713**	**3,050**	**n.a.**
Provisional	—	—	n.a.
Special provisional	10	153	n.a.
Fireman's	594	2,535	n.a.
Refrigeration operator's	109	228	n.a.
Thirty-day permits	—	32	n.a.
Ninety-day permits	—	102	n.a.

* Includes one duplicate.

n.a. Not applicable

Note: The above totals include the following certificates issued on an exchange with other provinces: one second-class certificates, nine third-class certificates and eight fourth-class certificates.

Pressure Welding Qualifications

Welding regulations under *The Boiler and Pressure Act* provide that any pressure welding on a boiler, pressure vessel, pressure piping, or pressure plant may be done only by persons authorized by the Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety Unit.

Welding authorizations are issued to persons who have passed a welder's qualification test supervised by an inspector appointed under *The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Act.* They are renewable 18 months from the test date, subject to testing.

The number of welding qualification tests conducted during the 1983-84 and 1984-85 fiscal years is shown below in Table 13.

Table 13

Welding Qualification Tests, Saskatchewan, 1983-84 and 1984-85

Type of test	1983-84	1984-85
Total tests	**898**	**638**
Qualification tests (each for four positions)	625	487
Pipeline and other special tests	273	151

Accidents

No accidents were reported during this fiscal year.

Electrical and Elevator Safety Unit

The objective of the Electrical and Elevator Safety Unit is to enforce and administer the provisions of *The Electrical Inspection and Licensing Act, 1981* and *The Passenger and Freight Elevator Act.* The enforcement of these Acts provides a high measure of public safety with respect to electrical wiring, the sale and the installation of electrical apparatus and material, the sale and installation of elevators, and the licensing of persons engaged in electrical and elevator installation.

The unit examines new electrical installations, equipment and alterations, and additions made thereto. It re-inspects certain existing electrical installations and examines all electrical equipment intended for distribution in the province. The unit periodically inspects all passenger and freight elevators intended for use in the province. The unit licenses contractors, employers and tradesmen making electrical installations; suppliers of electrical equipment; and, all elevators and elevator contractors.

Inspection Districts

For the purpose of conducting electrical inspections, the province is divided into 13 rural districts and two city districts, namely Regina and Saskatoon. Electrical inspectors for rural districts, not in the immediate vicinity of these two cities, are located in North Battleford, Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, Tisdale, Yorkton, Swift Current and Estevan. For inspection of elevators, the province is divided into two areas, with an inspector located in Regina and another in Saskatoon.

Legislation and Regulations

The Electrical Inspection and Licensing Act, 1981 and *The Passenger and Freight Elevator Act* both provide authority for the making of regulations.

Along with supplementary amendments, Parts I, II and V of *The Canadian Electrical Code* have been adopted as requirements governing electrical installations in Saskatchewan.

During the 1984-85 fiscal year, Chapter E-7.1 Reg 2 - "The Electrical Permit, Inspection and Licensing Fees Regulations" OC 463/83 was amended by OC 1237/84 effective January 1, 1985. Chapter E-7.1 Reg 3 - "The Canadian Electrical Code (Saskatchewan Amendments) Regulations" was adopted and became effective March 7, 1985. Chapter E-7.1 Reg 4 - "The Canadian Electrical Code (Adoption) Regulations" OC 265/85 was adopted and became effective March 7, 1985.

Chapter P-4 Reg 1 - "The Passenger and Freight Elevator Regulations, 1982" OC 1808/82 was amended by OC 1284/84 effective November 8, 1984.

Electrical Inspections

Under the provisions of *The Electrical Inspection and Licensing Act, 1981,* permits must be obtained for all new electrical installations, additions and alterations on consumer property, and lightning rod installations.

During the year under review, 5,492 permits for very minor installations were cleared without inspection. The inspection time saved through this policy was diverted to planned re-inspection of existing high-occupancy buildings and to the responding to increasing demand for information from the public and tradesmen.

In Regina and Saskatoon sampling inspections were made before electrical wiring was covered; and on all but very minor installations, inspections were made upon completion. In other areas, inspections are deferred until after the installation has been completed, except for larger installations, which require scheduled visits.

If inspections reveal non-conformance to the Act or regulations thereunder, the contractor is required to make the necessary alterations within a specified time. The same procedure is followed with respect to sub-standard lightning rod installations. Existing installations are re-inspected upon requests made by fire departments, insurance companies, utilities or contractors, and by individuals concerned about safety of wiring. Owners of installations constituting a potential hazard are required to bring such installations up to standard within a specified time, which varies depending on the degree of hazard involved.

Upon examination of 24,912 installations during the period under review, 3,404 notices were issued requesting contractors or owners to remove hazards from defective installations. Of these defect notices, 748 were issued in connection with old, existing installations.

Licensing

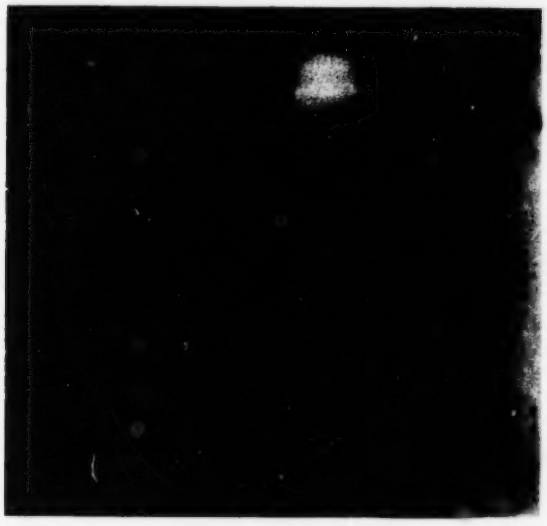
The contractor, employer and journeyman making electrical installations, and every person engaged in the business of a supply house must hold an appropriate licence as specified in *The Electrical Inspection and Licensing Act, 1981.*

The licence indicates the qualifications of the holder and is used as a means of control in enforcing the Act and regulations thereunder. Table 14 shows the number of licences issued to contractors, employers, journeymen and operators of supply houses, under the authority of the Act during the fiscal years 1983-84 and 1984-85.

Table 14

Licences Issued under *The Electrical Inspection and Licensing Act, 1981,* Saskatchewan, 1983-84 and 1984-85

Type of licence	1983-84	1984-85
Total	**1,478**	**1,172**
Contractor	**588**	**494**
Full — one-year	296	199
Full — five-year	169	177
Restricted — one-year	6	5
Restricted — five-year	8	13
Limited — one-year	109	99
Employer	**111**	**111**
Journeymen	**755**	**567**
General	729	552
Restricted	25	14
Temporary	1	1
Supply house	**24**	**21**



Plans and Equipment Approvals

During the year under review, plans and equipment approvals for 337 institutional and industrial projects were reviewed and approved or commented on. There were 441 special acceptances of equipment of special design, after inspection and test by staff of the unit.

Prosecutions

No charges were laid during the year under review.

Elevator Inspections

The Passenger and Freight Elevator Act and regulations made thereunder, provide for periodic inspection of passenger and freight elevators in the province and for the annual licensing of elevators and elevator contractors. They require, further, that plans and specifications of new installations be submitted to the unit for approval and registration.

During the year under review, the unit made 1,447 routine elevator re-inspections, 129 acceptance inspections and 72 special inspections. Special inspections are those made for insurance companies, those made for purposes of approving major changes in installations and those required to determine whether equipment falls under jurisdiction of the Act, whereas acceptance inspections are those done on new installations before they are permitted to be placed in service.

Licensing

Table 15 shows the number of annual licences issued during the years 1983-84 and 1984-85.

Table 15

Licences issued under
The Passenger and Freight Elevator Act,
Saskatchewan, 1983-84 and 1984-85

Type of licence	1983-84	1984-85
Total	**1,602**	**1,734**
Passenger elevator	965	1,035
Freight elevator	226	227
Hand-power freight	14	15
Hydraulic freight	72	73
Electric dumbwaiter	148	158
Handicapped lift	60	83
Manlift	44	57
Escalator	18*	20†
Workman's hoist	2	1
Chair lift	—	—
T-bar	8	12
Rope tow	22	31
Elevator contractor's — Class "A"	9	7
— Class "B"	14	15

Note: * Licences issued cover 46 escalators.
† Licenses issued cover 47 escalators.

Table 16

Approvals and Registrations Issued under *The Passenger and Freight Elevator Act*, Saskatchewan, 1983-84 and 1984-85

Type of installation	1983-84	1984-85
Total	**106**	**97**
Passenger elevator	53	67
Freight elevator	1	2
Dumbwaiter	8	3
Handicapped lift	33	18
Manlift	2	—
Escalator	2	—
Workman's hoist	3	1
T-bar	—	2
Rope tow	4	4

New Installations

During the period under review, 97 specifications for new installations and major alterations were approved and registered, as shown in Table 16.

Prosecutions

There were no prosecutions for offences under *The Passenger and Freight Elevator Act* and regulations thereunder during the year under review.

Fire Commissioner's Unit

The Annual Report of the Fire Commissioner is published separately, based on the same fiscal year as is this report. It contains more detailed information on the activites of the Fire Commissioner's Unit, the causes of the fires and the extent of fire loss in Saskatchewan.

The object of the Fire Commissioner's Unit is to enforce and administer *The Fire Prevention Act, 1980*. Enforcement of the Act is intended to provide a high measure of public safety from fire and to minimize property loss as a result of fire.

The unit inspects public buildings, prepares educational and practical programs in fire prevention, aids in the training of volunteer firefighters, carries out fire and arson investigations, examines plans and specifications of public buildings, keeps a record of information on fires in the province and provides assistance to other government departments, municipalities, industries, organizations, businesses, committees and individuals with respect to fire safety matters.

Inspection Districts

The province is divided into nine districts with fire inspectors based in Saskatoon, Swift Current, Prince Albert, North Battleford/Lloydminster, Yorkton/Melville, Moose Jaw, Weyburn, Estevan and Regina. Six inspectors work out of the Regina office; three of these conduct the fire training program.

Legislation and Regulations

The Fire Commissioner's Unit enforces *The Fire Prevention Act, 1980* and the regulations enacted thereunder.

In addition the unit enforces those regulations with respect to fire precautions adopted under *The Housing and Special-care Homes Act, The Mental Health Act* and *The Civil Defence and Disaster Act.*

Inspections

Inspectors of the Fire Commissioner's Unit carried out an inspection program in 1984-85 in various classes of buildings with the exception of dwellings, where inspections were made only as a result of a complaint or obvious hazard. Inspection of dwellings by local authorities is encouraged because of the large inspections staff which would otherwise be required for this activity. Hospitals, institutional buildings, schools and other places of public assembly were inspected in the interest of fire safety. Government-owned buildings were also inspected for fire safety and evacuation procedures.

Routine inspections were conducted during the fiscal year in 157 towns, villages and hamlets.

In large urban municipalities where paid fire departments are in existence, local fire departments are encouraged to make inspections of public buildings, except in special circumstances where provincial attention is required.

During the year, fire prevention officers made 3,815 inspections excluding oil burner inspections, which are mentioned elsewhere in this report. Of this number 642 were special inspections and 519 were re-inspection follow-ups on previous orders. A total of 745 orders to remedy certain conditions within specified periods of time was issued.

Plans and Specifications

During the fiscal year ended March 31, 1985, 1,149 plans and specifications for new buildings, or additions to existing buildings, were reviewed. Of these 539 were approved with minor provisions and 783 were approved subject to alterations. Approval was not given in 127 examinations, either because of requirements for major redesign or because the review was only advisory. The above figures do not include sketches and drawings which were reviewed in consultation with architects and other interested persons previous to the preparation of preliminary and/or final drawings.

As in previous years, plans required to be submitted were examined in compliance with the Flammable Liquids Regulations, the Hotel Regulations, the Hospital Fire Regulations, the Regulations Governing Fire Safety in Educational Buildings, the Regulations Governing Installation of Automatic Sprinkler Systems, and pertinent sections of the regulations under *The Housing and Special-care Homes Act.*

In examining plans submitted for government buildings and plans voluntarily submitted for structures such as churches, lodge rooms, and dry cleaning plants, the Fire Commissioner's Unit continued to apply the National Building Code of Canada as widely as possible. Codes of the National Fire Prevention Association and other standards of good practice are also used for this purpose.

The following table shows the number of plans and specifications reviewed since 1982-83.

Table 17

Plans and Specifications Reviewed, by Disposition, Fire Commissioner's Unit, Saskatchewan, 1982-83 to 1984-85

Disposition	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85
Total	**1,206**	**1,406**	**1,449**
Approved	407	505	539
Approved subject to alteration	675	754	783
Rejected or pending	124	147	127

Fire Investigation

During 1984-85 Fire Crime Reports were submitted for 230 investigations. Such reports are submitted by police and Fire Commissioner's Unit staff. Fire Commissioner's Unit staff participated in 132 investigations which included cases in which arson was suspected and cases in which, for fire prevention reasons, it would be in the public's interest to determine the cause of the fire. While fire prevention officers made a number of investigations unassisted, in many cases they assisted law enforcement officers in determining the cause of the fire, whether accidental or intentional in origin. The results and disposition of the Fire Crime Report investigations are illustrated in Table 18. It should be noted that all fires reported are investigated for cause, origin and circumstance by either the Local Assistant to the Fire Commissioner (secretary-treasurers, fire chiefs and their staff), police, insurance agencies, special investigation units, the Fire Commissioner's Unit staff or a combination of these forces. One inquiry was undertaken in 1984-85.

Table 18

Results and Disposition of Fire Crime Report Investigations, Saskatchewan, 1984-85

Disposition	Number
Total Fire Crime Reports submitted	**230**
Suspect segments listed	**298**
Unfounded arson investigations	90
Persons suspected/concluded	50
Charges laid	13
Fires still under investigation	—
Investigations persons unknown	94
Undetermined	5
Investigations status unknown	—
Miscellaneous	46

Fire Record

Under the provisions of *The Fire Prevention Act, 1980* the Fire Commissioner is required to maintain a record of fires occurring in the province, including facts relating to origin and circumstances, as determined by Fire Commissioner's Unit investigations and reports of adjusters and police. Data contained in reports of fires are summarized in the Annual Report of the Fire Commission.

A total of 2,789 fires was reported in 1984. Electricity was the largest single cause of fire, accounting for 26.5 percent of the total number of fires or 738 fires. Other leading causes were: coal or wood (16.1 per cent - 448 fires), flammable liquids (14.8 per cent - 413 fires), and smokers' materials (8.6 per cent - 240 fires).

The property loss for 1984 was $35,469,311. Fires in homes continued to be highest in number; in 1984, 34.4 per cent of all fires reported were in homes. This represents a total of 958 fires with property loss of $11,450,766.

The number of lives lost in fires in Saskatchewan decreased in 1984 from the previous year. In 1984, 26 persons (12 men, six women and eight children) lost their lives in fires as compared with 30 persons in 1983.

Oil Burners

The Fire Prevention Act, 1980 and regulations thereunder require that distributors and wholesalers of oil burners obtain an annual licence, and that firms or persons installing and servicing oil-burning equipment take out an annual or quinquennial licence, as authorized by the Fire Commissioner, for such work. The number of licences and the number of oil burner installation permits issued during the fiscal year ended March 31, 1985, are shown in Table 19.

During the fiscal year 1984-85, 311 oil burner inspections were made.

Table 19

Oil Burner Licences and Permits Issued under *The Fire Prevention Act, 1980*, Saskatchewan, 1983-84 and 1984-85

Type of licence or permit	1983-84	1984-85
Total oil burner licences	**94**	**88**
Wholesalers or manufacturers (annual)	11	12
Installers (annual)	34	27
Installers (quinquennial)	49	49
Total oil burner permits (annual)	**16**	**10**

Fire Prevention Education Program

During the year under review, fire prevention films owned by the Fire Safety Unit were widely used throughout the province by arrangement with SaskMedia. Fire prevention officers also showed films to school children and various organizations.

The Fire Commissioner's Unit continued to advise municipal councils and fire departments on fire protection requirements. A total of 116 fire department surveys was made during the year. Inspectors advised institutions, hospitals and hotels on fire emergency programs, fire exit drills and other safety matters. In addition, inspectors attended 85 special meetings with fire chiefs, local authorities and other persons concerned with fire prevention.

Special Fire Safety Program

In June a new provincial fire prevention program based on the theme "Think Safety - Prevent Fires" was implemented. Communications personnel of the Fire Commissioner's Unit undertook a number of educational and safety promotional activities. Two specially designed vehicles were obtained for the program. The vehicles contain films, displays, and firefighting equipment.

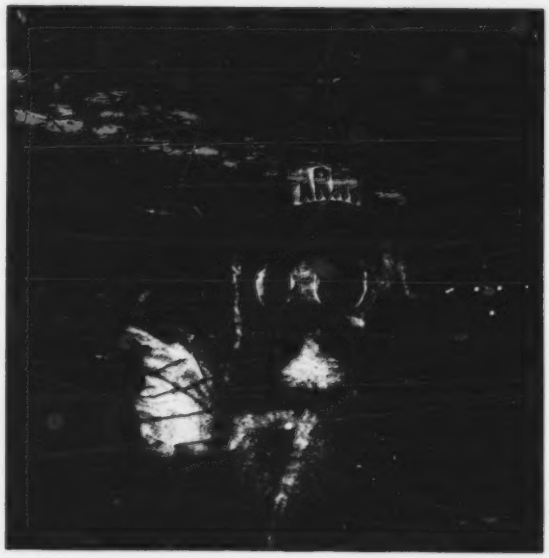
The program staff presented exhibits at parades and other events and participated in exhibitions and fairs in Saskatoon, Prince Albert, Regina, Unity, Meadow Lake, Shellbrook, Weyburn, Melfort, Rosetown, Estevan, Central Butte, Rosthern, Nipawin and Moose Jaw.

In September, the staff, accompanied by the program mascot, "Sparky", the fire prevention dalmation, commenced fire safety presentations in the schools. By the end of March 1985, the program had been presented in 119 schools and had been attended by 20,759 students and teachers and 1,858 other interested persons including parents, council members, M.L.A.'s and volunteer firefighters.

Fire Prevention Week

In 1984, the week of October 7 to 13 was designated as Fire Prevention Week and was emphasized by means of lectures to school children, distribution of films, special fire prevention literature, news releases and special messages from both the Minister-in-charge of *The Fire Prevention Act, 1980,* and the Fire Commissioner.

The Fire Commissioner's Unit again sponsored the annual Fire Prevention Poster Competition for public and high schools. Thirty cash awards were provided. The competition was divided into eight groups, covering Grades 1 to 12 in four divisions for city and rural school categories. A total of 4,800 entries was received. Winners of the contest were notified of their awards by the Minister-in-charge of *The Fire Prevention Act, 1980.* The awards were made public through the media.



Firefighters' Training and Fire Prevention Programs

During the fiscal year, training schools for volunteer firefighters were conducted in 48 towns and villages. Of the 1,198 registrants at these schools, 885 student firemen completed the training courses and received certificates.

Fire prevention officers lectured and gave tabletop fire demonstrations at three dangerous goods seminars; at 31 fire prevention meetings in hospitals, schools, hotel association workshops, and other similar events; and to R.C.M.P. recruit training classes at one fire safety course and two fire extinguisher classes, during the 1984-85 fiscal year.

Fire Protection Associations in Saskatchewan

There are now over 95 rural fire protection associations in operation, protecting rural homes or a combination of rural and urban homes in smaller centres. Most of the associations cover districts, financed on a taxation basis, and they protect from one to three rural municipalities. They include some towns, villages and hamlets within their particular rural municipalities. Several rural fire departments are operating on a co-operative basis and by subscription.

Provincial legislation provides for agreements to share the cost of firefighting equipment under the various municipal Acts, and provides for taxation over all or part of any municipality for fire protection. There are over 416 pumping units in the province, each with a capacity of 420 gallons or more per minute.

Gas Safety Unit

The objective of the Gas Safety Unit is to enforce and administer the provisions of *The Gas Inspection and Licensing Act* and regulations thereunder. The enforcement of this Act provides a high measure of public safety with respect to the manufacture, sale and installation of gas equipment for consumers and the licensing of fitters and contractors who are engaged in the work of gas installation.

The unit inspects new installations and alterations, replacements or additions made to existing installations with priority given to the more hazardous ones. Existing installations in domestic dwellings and in public and high occupancy buildings are periodically re-inspected. The Gas Safety Unit licenses contractors, employers and tradesmen making installations; suppliers of consumer equipment; bulk propane dispensing plants; and filled propane cylinder dealers. The unit examines gas appliances and equipment stocked for redistribution within the province and may field test one-of-a-kind gas fired units not specifically covered by an authorized national standard.

Inspection Districts

For purposes of inspection, the province is divided into nine districts with offices in Regina, Moose Jaw, Swift Current, Saskatoon, North Battleford, Prince Albert, Humboldt, Estevan and Yorkton. Four inspectors and the chief are assigned to Regina and its five sub-districts; three inspectors are assigned to Saskatoon; two in North Battleford and one each to the remaining districts.

Standards and Specifications

Under the auspices of the Canadian Gas Association and direction of the Interprovincial Gas Advisory Council, work continues on the upgrading and development of standards for the manufacture and testing of consumer equipment and specific appliances. Three national authorities accredited by the Standards Council of Canada test to these standards, and each provides a distinctive labelling service on appliances and equipment meeting specifications contained in authorized standards.

Certification, testing and labelling services acceptable to the province are those of the Canadian Standards Association, the Canadian Gas Association, and Underwriters' Laboratories of Canada. Each authority, upon demand, makes available to the unit confidential copies of test reports. To ensure maintenance of engineering and production standards, examinations of appliances and equipment are conducted by certification organization technicians at the production line level. Supply house, retail outlet and field observations are made by unit inspectors.

Defects and unauthorized changes found on new production, stocked or installed equipment are ordered rectified by the manufacturer or his representative at no cost to the consumer. Approvals are withdrawn from manufacturers who persist in violating terms of manufacture, certification listing and product labelling contracts.

Legislation and Regulations

The Gas Safety Unit administers *The Gas Inspection and Licensing Act* and regulations thereunder. During the year under review, no new legislation was introduced.

Safety Program

Following established practice, field staff were actively engaged in development areas advising contractors, instructing tradesmen and participating at rural gasification program meetings, at which the inspector would invite and reply to public and contractor inquiry, acquaint consumers with the functions of the unit, and outline the principal requirements for safe, efficient gas utilization.

Natural and Propane Gas Consumers

As of March 31, 1985, 254,884 consumers were connected to Saskatchewan Power Corporation's natural gas distribution system and an estimated 48,000 propane consumers were supplied by independent propane utilities.

Inspections

New domestic installations made in cities and rural areas receive a first inspection from the utility which consists of a visual inspection of equipment and a pressure test of the gas piping. The utility sets the meter and activates the equipment if deemed safe.

The Gas Safety Unit completes the follow up or final inspection. This is a detailed operational checkout of appliances, safety controls, venting and fire prevention clearances. Approved equipment compliance is checked on this inspection.

When installations fail to conform to provincial minimum standards, inspectors list the deficiencies requiring correction. Immediate hazards are reported to contractors orally or by telephone, followed by a notification in writing stating the period of time in which corrections must be made.

Unit inspectors also attend the initial turn-on and test firing of commercial and industrial gas-fired boilers and equipment with an input in excess of 400,000 B.t.u. per hour.

Table 20 shows a breakdown of the 54,727 inspection calls made in the period under review.

In total, 4,693 written notices requesting correction or removal of hazards to life, health or property were issued on new installations and a similar number of correction orders listing lesser hazards were left with owners of existing installations. Immediate hazards to life, health and property necessitate follow-up inspection. Lesser hazards are spotchecked to determine the extent of corrective compliance.

Accidents

Gas related accidents resulting in persons being hospitalized due to carbon monoxide poisoning, fire and explosions were investigated by the Gas Safety Unit.

A single fatality occurred as a result of carbon monoxide poisoning from a faulty furnace.

Recourse to Bonds

Sureties were called upon to complete the work of several delinquent contractors and to correct installation defects left in suspense by business failures. Corrections were made without additional cost to consumers.

Re-inspections

Re-inspection of residential and high occupancy buildings continues. A total of 4,573 re-inspections was made and 40 per cent of these revealed hazardous or clean-up conditions on which 1,829 correction orders were issued.

Re-inspections indicate a need for continuing education in the field of equipment maintenance and servicing. The program provides opportunity to evaluate equipment and to bring to light that which is prone to failure or potentially hazardous. Consumers were encouraged to have their equipment checked and serviced by a qualified licensed gas contractor on an annual basis through the distribution of brochures to all natural gas consumers and through personal advice provided.

Public Safety

In light of numerous failures of prefabricated metal chimneys discovered by inspectors, the Gas Safety Unit issued releases to the news media warning consumers of the potential hazards.

Accidents

No fatal accidents or accidents resulting in permanent physical disability occurred on installations reported to and inspected by the unit.

Recourse to Bonds

Sureties were called upon to complete the work of several delinquent contractors and to correct installation defects left in suspense by business failures. Corrections were made without additional cost or inconvenience to consumers.

Table 20

Number of Inspections, by Type of Inspection, Gas Safety Unit, Saskatchewan, 1983-84 and 1984-85

Type of inspection	1983-84	1984-85
Total	**63,621**	**54,727**
First (leak test prior to meter set)	11,373	8,295
Final (acceptance test)	14,781	12,702
Additions (new and used appliances)	3,080	2,449
Replacements (defective appliances)	7,603	7,278
Piping alterations	2,141	2,319
Temporary heating — new construction	1,959	1,394
Investigation and special inspections	324	414
Re-inspections — domestic dwellings and high occupancy buildings	5,593	4,573
Mobile homes and travel trailers	622	445
Trouble calls — smoke and sulphur tests, defect re-inspection	5,450	6,173
Propane storage and dispensing plant inspection	—	103
Miscellaneous calls and not-home cards left	10,695	8,582

Note: Ninety-three propane filling plant plans were approved in 1984.

Licensing

Under the provisions of *The Gas Inspection and Licensing Act*, propane bulk storage and cylinder filling plant operators, installation contractors, employers, fitters and wholesale suppliers of gas appliances and equipment are required to hold a licence. Licences are issued on a one-year basis or for a term not exceeding five years to individuals or companies who comply with the conditions of licensing set forth in the Act and regulations made thereunder.

The number of licences in effect during the fiscal years 1983-84 and 1984-85 is shown in Table 21.

Table 21

Licences in Effect under *The Gas Inspection and Licensing Act*, Saskatchewan, 1983-84 and 1984-85

Type of licence	1983-84	1984-85
Total	**2,896**	**2,906**
Domestic gas fitter	919	956
General gas fitter	977	1,008
General gas contractor	344	328
Domestic gas contractor	274	271
Limited gas contractor	117	96
Gas supply house	17	19
Employers	39	56
Propane bulk filling plants	209	172

Building Standards Unit

The purpose of the Building Standards Unit is to provide minimum safety standards with respect to the construction and occupancy of buildings and provide requirements that will ensure that new buildings will be accessible to persons with physical disabilities.

Legislation and Regulations

The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Act received assent on June 1, 1984 but no sections were proclaimed during the 1984 - 1985 period.

A committee appointed by the Minister of Labour developed a draft set of regulations on requirements for accessibility and presented a report to the Minister in February 1985.

The Building Standards Unit initiated an extensive review of provincial regulations that include requirements affecting building construction to ensure that regulations being drafted by the Unit to adopt the National Building Code of Canada in Saskatchewan would not be in conflict.

Pensions Branch

The Pensions Branch is the main body of pension policy expertise in the Government of Saskatchewan. The branch administers *The Pension Benefits Act,* provides information and advice on retirement income matters and serves as the focus for the development of retirement income policy and program alternatives. Its policy advisory role is particularly important in light of the current national pension debate.

Functions

The Pensions Branch has the following specific functions:

(a) to administer *The Pension Benefits Act* and the regulations thereunder;

(b) to advise the government with regard to retirement income matters;

(c) to develop pension policy and program alternatives;

(d) to prepare pension legislation and regulations and related documentation;

(e) to conduct research on retirement income matters, including studies of the social, economic and fiscal impact of alternative pension arrangements;

(f) to participate in intergovernmental discussions and negotiations on pension matters;

(g) to consult with interest groups on pension issues;

(h) to prepare and distribute to the public, information and educational materials;

(i) to provide technical advice to various provincial agencies.

Legislation

The Pensions Branch is responsible for ensuring that employees' financial interests in private pension plans are protected. This goal is accomplished through the enforcement of *The Pension Benefits Act* and regulations thereunder.

The Pension Benefits Act applies to all plans organized and administered for employees engaged in employment in Saskatchewan. The Superintendent of Pensions is responsible for ensuring that all pension plans comply with the following legislative requirements:

(a) Registration — All private employer/employee pension plans must be filed for registration with the Superintendent.

(b) Information Returns — Each plan must file an Annual Information Return stating contributions made to the plan and number of employees retired and number of memberships terminated. Every three years an actuarial valuation must be filed for each "defined benefit" plan.

(c) Solvency — Sufficient monies must be in a pension plan to pay for the benefits promised at any point in time.

(d) Funding — Contributions to a pension plan must be made in a regular uniform fashion and if there are special payments owing the plan to fund deficits they must also be remitted over a specified amortization period.

(e) Investments — The regulations under *The Pension Benefits Act* regulate the investment of pension fund monies both qualitatively and quantitatively.

(f) Minimum Vesting Standard — Members of pension plans must become entitled to their benefits, with a minimum of one year of service, when their years of service plus age equal 45.

(g) Disclosure — Each member of a pension plan is entitled to a written explanation of the terms and conditions of the plan and his rights or obligations.

(h) Plan Terminations — The Superintendent approves the disposition of all pension plan assets when a pension plan is wound-up.

CAPSA Consensus

The Canadian Association of Pension Supervisory Authorities (CAPSA) is comprised of senior government officials who administer pension regulatory legislation in each of the jurisdictions with such legislation (Ontario, Quebec, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Manitoba, Nova Scotia and the federal government). This group has been active in the area of establishing and revising minimum legislative standards for occupational pension plans. The organization facilitates an exchange of ideas regarding the administration of private pension plans, with the objective of making regulatory legislation uniform across Canada. The Superintendent of Pensions has been an active participant in all CAPSA deliberations.

Pension Plan Statistics

During the 1984-85 fiscal year, 66 new pension plans were registered, 227 amendments were approved, 485 annual information returns were received and 40 plans were wound-up.

The Pensions Branch maintains an arrangement with Statistics Canada for the compilation of pension plan statistics. The most recent statistics show that there were 151,998 Saskatchewan employees participating in 1,455 pension plans. Table 22 provides a summary of selected features of Saskatchewan pension plan membership. These figures include employees participating in pension plans which are registered and monitored by other jurisdictions under reciprocal agreements. In addition, the data include members of public employee pension plans which are not subject to *The Pension Benefits Act.*

Table 22

Selected Features of Pension Plan Membership by Sector, Contributory Status and Sex, Saskatchewan, March 31, 1985

Sector	Total	Male	Female
Both sectors	**151,998**	**99,968**	**52,030**
Contributory	123,111	75,574	47,537
Non-contributory	28,887	24,394	4,493
Public Sector	**83,394**	**47,521**	**35,873**
Contributory	82,951	47,081	35,870
Non-contributory	443	440	3
Private Sector	**68,604**	**52,447**	**16,157**
Contributory	40,160	28,493	11,667
Non-contributory	28,444	23,954	4,490

Policy and Program Development

The Pensions Branch is responsible for conducting research and providing advice on the broad range of pension policy issues. The branch develops and examines pension policy and program alternatives at the national and provincial levels, undertakes in-depth research projects on pension-related issues, analyzes major pension reports, and prepares background and briefing materials. Some of the activities have included:

(a) determine the adequate minimum level of retirement income;

(b) investigate the income position of the elderly, analyze federal studies regarding adequate replacement income in retirement and prepare briefing material regarding the inadequacies of the current retirement income arrangements;

(c) prepare research material on social service expenditures in Canada from the international perspective;

(d) draft alternate proposals for the reform of the national retirement income system;

(e) report on the characteristics of private pension plans in Saskatchewan;

(f) prepare briefing material on the investment procedures of pension funds and compare federal and provincial investment regulations;

(g) prepare summaries of major pension reports;

(h) report on the matters of inclusion of homemanagers in the CPP, pensions and divorce, survivor benefits and the splitting of CPP pension credits;

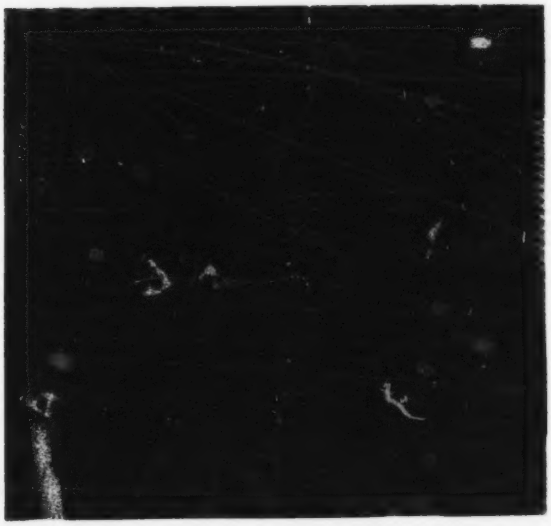
(i) prepare historical information on the development of the current retirement income system;

(j) participate in national conferences with respect to reforms within the national retirement income system;

(k) prepare research material and background information on technical and social implications of reforms within the national and provincial retirement income systems including:
— improved vesting and lock-in requirements

- improved survivor benefits
- pensions as family assets
- interest credited on employee contributions to employment pension plans
- elegibility to and participation in employment pension plans
- sex discrimination in employment pension plans
- inflation protection of benefits.

The Pensions Branch staff is knowledgeable about the national social security pension system and the operation of the private pension system. Branch personnel review pension developments in other jurisdictions, and participate in national, federal-provincial and provincial discussions of pension reform. The branch consults with labour, business, and other special interest groups to obtain and assess opinions with respect to proposed and existing programs. The branch is also responsible for public education efforts with respect to pension matters.



Minimum Wage Board

The Minimum Wage Board, subject to the approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, may issue orders with respect to certain labour standards.

At the end of March, 1985, the membership of the board was as follows: Ms. Mary Rocan, Chairperson, Regina; Mrs. Elsie Hannon, Saskatoon; Mr. T.D. Mills, Regina; Mr. J.S. Rootman, Regina. There is one vacancy on the board due to the death of Mr. S.W. Lindsay, Saskatoon.

The board determines: the minimum wage, the minimum meal break period, the maximum charge by employers for meals or lodging provided, the minimum age at which persons may be employed, and the period in any day in which the hours of work of employees shall be confined. It also requires: an employer to repair and launder uniforms; that female employees be provided with free transportation to their residence after completion of work shifts during certain hours of the day; a detailed pay statement to be presented to employees; and that employees be paid for rest periods granted by employers.

The minimum wage regulations do not apply to: employees working in undertakings in which only members of the employer's family are employed; agricultural workers; persons employed in sheltered workshops or work activity centres for the socially, physically, or mentally impaired, or handicapped; or employees employed exclusively as domestic workers in private homes except where a wage subsidy is given to the employer from public funds.

Minimum Wage Board Orders

The Minimum Wage Board Orders in force during the fiscal year 1984-85 are summarized in Table 23.

Table 23

Minimum Wage Board Orders in Force in Saskatchewan during 1984-85

Order	Applicable to	Minimum Wage Board Order provisions
No. 1	All employers and employees.	$4.25 per hour effective January 1, 1982. Every employee, other than a school student in regular attendance during the school term, a janitor, a caretaker or a building cleaner, who is required to report for duty, other than for overtime, shall be paid a minimum sum of $12.75, whether or not he is required to be on duty for three hours on that occasion.
No. 2	Hotels, restaurants, educational institutions, hospitals and nursing homes.	This Order requires employers to provide certain benefits to employees with respect to working shifts, transportation for female employees, uniforms, meal periods, board and lodging.
No. 3	All employers and employees.	This Order requires an employer to deliver to each of his employees a detailed statement of his earnings and deductions therefrom.

Appendix 1

Legislation Administered by the Saskatchewan Department of Labour

Assignment of Wages Act
Boiler and Pressure Vessel Act
Building Trades Protection Act
Department of Labour Act
Electrical Inspection and Licensing Act, 1981
Employment Agencies Act
Fire Departments Platoon Act
Fire Prevention Act, 1980
Gas Inspection and Licensing Act
Labour - Management Dispute (Temporary Provisions) Act
Labour Standards Act
Occupational Health and Safety Act
Passenger and Freight Elevator Act
Pension Benefits Act
Radiation Health and Safety Act
Theatres and Cinematographers Act, Section 17
Trade Union Act
Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Act
Wages Recovery Act

Appendix 2

Authorized Staff of the Saskatchewan Department of Labour

Authorized Staff of the Saskatchewan Department of Labour, as of March 31, 1985

Branch	Total permanent positions
Total	**241.3**
Administrative Services Branch	34.6
Policy Planning and Research Branch	13.4
Labour Relations Branch	16.0
Labour Standards Branch	26.1
Pensions Branch	4.0
Occupational Health and Safety Branch	37.7
Technical Safety Services Branch	109.5

Appendix 3

Publications Available from the Saskatchewan Department of Labour

Labour Standards Branch

Labour Standards (periodic brochure)	free

Policy Planning and Research Branch

Annual Report of the Saskatchewan Department of Labour	free
Saskatchewan Labour Report (monthly)	free
Wages and Working Conditions, by Occupation (annual)	free
Saskatchewan Labour Legislation (biennial booklet)	free
Study of Saskatchewan Collective Bargaining Agreements (annual)	free
Decisions of the Saskatchewan Labour Relations Board and Court Cases arising therefrom,	
Vol. 1 (1945-54)	$35.00 per vol.
Vol. 2 (1955-64)	$35.00 per vol.
Vol. 3 (1965-74)	$75.00 per vol.

Occupational Health and Safety Branch

The Safe Workplace (newsletter, occasional)	free
Leaflets and research papers on various topics	varies according to publication
Various research papers related to radiation safety	free

Technical Safety Services Branch

Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety Unit

Canadian Standards Association B51 Code for Construction and Inspection of Boilers and Pressure Vessels	$11.50
Canadian Standards Association B52 Mechanical Refrigeration Code	$20.00
Refrigeration Operators' Home Study Course	$17.00
Basic Building Operators	$25.00
The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Act and regulations	$ 1.75 each

Electrical and Elevator Safety Unit

Canadian Standards Association Standard C22.1-1978, Canadian Electrical Code, Part 1 (13th Edition), Essential Requirements and Minimum Standards Governing Electrical Installations for Buildings, Structures and Premises (all potentials)	$12.00
Canadian Standards Association Standard C22.5-1978, Canadian Electrical Code, Part V, Use of Electricity in Mines	$ 8.00
Canadian Standards Association Standard C22.1-1982, Canadian Electrical Code, Part I (14th edition)	$20.00
Canadian Standards Association Standard B44-1975, Safety Code for Elevators, Dumbwaiters and Escalators	$16.00
Canadian Standards Association Standard Z185-1975, Safety Code for Personnel Hoists	$ 7.50
Canadian Standards Association Standard B44-1975, Safety Code for Elevators,	
Supplement No. 1	$ 4.00
Supplement No. 2	$ 4.00
Supplement No. 3	$ 6.00
Canadian Standards Association Standard 3-Z98-M78, Passenger Ropeways	$12.00

Canadian Standards Association Standard B311-M1979, Code for Manlifts	$13.00
The Electrical Inspection and Licensing Act, 1981, and regulations	$ 1.75 each
The Passenger and Freight Elevator Act and regulations	$ 1.75 each

Fire Commissioner's Unit

Annual Report of the Saskatchewan Fire Commissioner	free
Canadian Standards Association Standard B139-1976, Installation Code for Oil Burning Equipment (one copy issued initially to oil burner installers without charge)	$10.40
IFSTA 200 Manual, Essentials of Fire Fighting	$22.20
N.F.P.A. No. 13 — Sprinkler Systems	$ 6.00
The Fire Prevention Act, 1980 and regulations	free
Leaflets and pamphlets concerning fire safety	free

Gas Safety Unit

Canadian Gas Association Standard Can 1-B149.1-M80, Installation Code for Natural Gas Burning Appliances and Equipment	$10.00
Canadian Gas Association Standard Can 1-B149.2-M80, Installation Code for Propane Burning Appliances and Equipment	$14.00
The Gas Inspection and Licensing Act and regulations (one copy of each provided free of charge)	$ 1.75 each

NOTE: All prices are subject to change.

Available from the
Saskatchewan Department of Labour
1870 Albert Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4P 3V7